BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS** STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. AC-2016-100

RICHARD ROY BLECKER 3600 Lime Street, #612 Riverside, CA 92501

Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. 34525

Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Revocation of License and Order is hereby adopted by the California Board of Accountancy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on Hugust 18, 2017

It is so ORDERED

FOR THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF

ACCOUNTANCY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- 1										
1	XAVIER BECERRA									
2	Attorney General of California JAMES M. LEDAKIS									
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General RON ESPINOZA									
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 176908									
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101									
6	P.O. Box 85266									
7	San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 738-9447 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 Attorneys for Complainant									
8		N. 6944								
9	BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY									
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA									
11										
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. AC-2016-100								
13	RICHARD ROY BLECKER									
14	3600 Lime Street, #612 Riverside, CA 92501	STIPULATED REVOCATION OF LICENSE AND ORDER								
15	Certified Public Accountant Certificate No. 34525									
16	Respondent.	·								
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19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-									
20	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:									
21	<u>PARTIES</u>									
22	1. Patti Bowers (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the California Board of									
23	Accountancy (CBA). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in									
24	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Ron Espinoza,									
25	Deputy Attorney General.									
26	2. Richard Roy Blecker (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney									
27	Robert Hahn, Esq., whose address is: Law Offices of Gould & Hahn, 2550 Ninth Street,									
28	Suite 101, Berkeley, California, 94710.									

On or about May 7, 1982, the CBA issued Certified Public Accountant Certificate
 No. 34525 to Respondent. The Certified Public Accountant Certificate cancelled on
 December 31, 2016.

JURISDICTION

- 4. Accusation No. AC-2016-100 was filed before the CBA, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on November 9, 2016. Respondent timely filed a Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. AC-2016-100 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. AC-2016-100. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Revocation of License and Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. AC-2016-100, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Certified Public Accountant Certificate.

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- 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.
- 11. Respondent agrees that his Certified Public Accountant Certificate is subject to discipline, and he agrees to be bound by the CBA's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

RESERVATION

12. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the CBA or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

- 13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the CBA. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the CBA may communicate directly with the CBA regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the CBA considers and acts upon it. If the CBA fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Revocation of License and Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the CBA shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Revocation of License and Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 15. This Stipulated Revocation of License and Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Revocation of License and

STIPULATED REVOCATION OF LICENSE (AC-2016-100)

ACCEPTANCE 1 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Revocation of License and Order and have fully 2 discussed it with my attorney, Robert Hahn, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it 3 will have on my Certified Public Accountant Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Revocation 4 of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the 5 Decision and Order of the California Board of Accountancy. 6 7 DATED: RICHARD ROY BLECKER 8 Respondent 9 10 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Richard Roy Blecker the terms and 11 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Revocation of License and Order. 12 I approve its form and content. 13 DATED: ROBERT HAHN, ESO. 14 Attorney for Respondent 15 16 **ENDORSEMENT** 17 The foregoing Stipulated Revocation of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted 18 for consideration by the California Board of Accountancy. 19 Dated: June 12, 2017 Respectfully submitted, 20 XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California 21 JAMES M. LEDAKIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General 22 23 24 RON ESPINOZA Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant 25 26

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SD2016700769

ACCEPTANCE I have carefully read the above Stipulated Revocation of License and Order and have fully 2 3 discussed it with my attorney, Robert Halm, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Certified Public Accountant Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Revocation 4 of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the 5 Decision and Order of the California Board of Accountancy. 6 DATED: 7 8 Respondent 9 10 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Richard Roy Blecker the terms and 11 conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Revocation of License and Order. 12 I approve its form and content. 13 DATED: 14 Attorney for Respondent 15 16 **ENDORSEMENT** 17 The foregoing Stipulated Revocation of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted 18 for consideration by the California Board of Accountancy. 19 Dated: Respectfully submitted. 20 XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California 21 James M. Ledakis Supervising Deputy Attorney General 22 23 24 RON ESPINOZA Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant 25 26 27 28 SD2016700769

STIPULATED REVOCATION OF LICENSE (AC-2016-100)

Exhibit A

Accusation No. AC-2016-100

li.	·								
1	KAMALA D. HARRIS								
2	Attorney General of California JAMES M, LEDAKIS								
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General RON ESPINOZA								
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 176908								
5	600 West Broadway, Suite 1800 San Diego, CA 92101								
6	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266								
7	Telephone: (619) 738-9447 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061								
8.	Attorneys for Complainant								
9	BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY								
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA								
11.									
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. AC-2016-100								
13	RICHARD ROY BLECKER								
14	3600 Lime Street, #612 Riverside, CA 92501 A C C U S A T I O N								
15	Certified Public Accountant Certificate No.								
16	34525								
17	Respondent.								
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19	Complainant alleges:								
20	PARTIES								
21	1. Patti Bowers (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the								
22	Executive Officer of the California Board of Accountancy (CBA), Department of Consumer								
23	Affairs.								
24	2. On or about May 7, 1982, the CBA issued Certified Public Accountant Certificate								
25	Number 34525 to Richard Roy Blecker (Respondent). The certificate was expired and not valid								
26	during the period January 1, 2000 through January 19, 2000, because the renewal fee required by								
27	Business and Professions Code Section 5070.6 was not paid and/or because the declaration of								
28	compliance with continuing education requirements was not submitted by Respondent to the CBA.								
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ACCUSATION

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Effective January 20, 2000, the certificate was renewed through December 31, 2001, upon receipt of the renewal fee and declaration of compliance with continuing education requirements.

- The certificate was expired and not valid during the period January 1, 2002 through February 5, 2002, because the renewal fee required by Business and Professions Code Section 5070.6 was not paid and/or because the declaration of compliance with continuing education requirements was not submitted by Respondent to the CBA. Effective February 6, 2002, the certificate was renewed through December 31, 2003, upon receipt of the renewal fee and declaration of compliance with continuing education requirements.
- 4. The certificate was continuously renewed and valid from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2007.
- 5. The certificate was expired and not valid during the period January 1, 2008 through March 19, 2008, because the renewal fee required by Business and Professions Code Section 5070.6 was not paid and/or because the declaration of compliance with continuing education requirements was not submitted by Respondent to the CBA. Effective March 20, 2008, the certificate was renewed through December 31, 2009, upon receipt of the renewal fee and declaration of compliance with continuing education requirements.
- 6. The certificate was expired and not valid during the period January 1, 2010 through February 15, 2010, because the renewal fee required by Business and Professions Code Section 5070.6 was not paid and/or because the declaration of compliance with continuing education requirements was not submitted by Respondent to the CBA. Effective February 16, 2010, the certificate was renewed through December 31, 2011, upon receipt of the renewal fee and declaration of compliance with continuing education requirements.
- 7. The certificate expired on January 1, 2012, and has not been renewed since that time. The certificate is currently in a "delinquent" status.

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JURISDICTION

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8. This Accusation is brought before the CBA, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

9. Section 5109 of the Code states:

"The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a license, practice privilege, or other authority to practice public accountancy by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of or action or disciplinary proceeding against the licensee, or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license."

- 10. Section 5100.5, subdivision (a), of the Code states:
- "(a) After notice and hearing the board may, for unprofessional conduct, permanently restrict or limit the practice of a licensee or impose a probationary term or condition on a license, which prohibits the licensee from performing or engaging in any of the acts or services described in Section 5051."
 - 11. Section 5116 of the Code states, in part:
- "(a) The board, after appropriate notice and an opportunity for hearing, may order any licensee or applicant for licensure or examination to pay an administrative penalty as provided in this article as part of any disciplinary proceeding or other proceeding provided for in this chapter.
- "(d) Administrative penalties assessed under this article shall be in addition to any other penalties or sanctions imposed on the licensee or other person, including, but not limited to, license revocation, license suspension, denial of the application for licensure, denial of the petition for reinstatement, or denial of admission to the licensing examination. Payment of these administrative penalties may be included as a condition of probation when probation is ordered."

Section 5050, subdivision (a), of the Code states:

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"(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) and (c) of this section, in subdivision (a) of Section 5054, and in Section 5096.12, no person shall engage in the practice of public accountancy in this state unless the person is the holder of a valid permit to practice public accountancy issued by the board or a holder of a practice privilege pursuant to Article 5.1 (commencing with Section 5096.)."

13. Section 5051 of the Code states:

"Except as provided in Sections 5052 and 5053, a person shall be deemed to be engaged in the practice of public accountancy within the meaning and intent of [Chapter 1 of Division 3 (commencing with Section 5000)] if he or she does any of the following:

- "(a) Holds himself or herself out to the public in any manner as one skilled in the knowledge, science, and practice of accounting, and as qualified and ready to render professional service therein as a public accountant for compensation.
 - "(b) Maintains an office for the transaction of business as a public accountant.
- "(c) Offers to prospective clients to perform for compensation, or who does perform on behalf of clients for compensation, professional services that involve or require an audit, examination, verification, investigation, certification, presentation, or review of financial transactions and accounting records.
- "(d) Prepares or certifies for clients reports on audits or examinations of books or records of account, balance sheets, and other financial, accounting and related schedules, exhibits, statements, or reports that are to be used for publication, for the purpose of obtaining credit, for filing with a court of law or with any governmental agency, or for any other purpose.
- "(e) In general or as an incident to that work, renders professional services to clients for compensation in any or all matters relating to accounting procedure and to the recording, presentation, or certification of financial information or data.
- "(f) Keeps books, makes trial balances, or prepares statements, makes audits, or prepares reports, all as a part of bookkeeping operations for clients.

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- "(g) Prepares or signs, as the tax preparer, tax returns for clients.
- "(h) Prepares personal financial or investment plans or provides to clients products or services of others in implementation of personal financial or investment plans.
 - "(i) Provides management consulting services to clients.

"The activities set forth in subdivisions (f) to (i), inclusive, are 'public accountancy' only when performed by a certified public accountant or public accountant, as defined in this chapter.

"A person is not engaged in the practice of public accountancy if the only services he or she engages in are those defined by subdivisions (f) to (i), inclusive, and he or she does not hold himself or herself out, solicit, or advertise for clients using the certified public accountant or public accountant designation. A person is not holding himself or herself out, soliciting, or advertising for clients within the meaning of this section solely by reason of displaying a CPA or PA certificate in his or her office or identifying himself or herself as a CPA or PA on other than signs, advertisements, letterhead, business cards, publications directed to clients or potential clients, or financial or tax documents of a client."

- 14. Section 5060 of the Code states:
- "(a) No person or firm may practice public accountancy under any name which is false or misleading.
- "(b) No person or firm may practice public accountancy under any name other than the name under which the person or firm holds a valid permit to practice issued by the board.
- "(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a sole proprietor may practice under a name other than the name set forth on his or her permit to practice, provided the name is registered by the board, is in good standing, and complies with the requirements of subdivision (a).
- "(d) The board may adopt regulations to implement, interpret, and make specific the provisions of this section including, but not limited to, regulations designating particular forms of names as being false or misleading."

19.	California	Code	of Regulations,	title	16,	section 40,	states
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- "(a) A firm performing services as defined in Section 39(a) shall have a peer review report accepted by a Board-recognized peer review program once every three years in order to renew its license.
- "(b) A firm performing services as defined in Section 39(a) for the first time shall have a peer review report accepted by a Board-recognized peer review program within 18 months of the date it completes those services."
 - 20. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 41, states:

"A firm shall enroll with a Board-recognized peer review program provider, and shall cooperate with the Board-recognized peer review program provider with which the firm is enrolled to arrange, schedule, and complete a peer review, in addition to taking and completing any remedial or corrective actions prescribed by the Board-recognized peer review program provider."

- 21. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 52, states:
- "(a) A licensee shall respond to any inquiry by the Board or its appointed representatives within 30 days. The response shall include making available all files, working papers and other documents requested.
- "(b) A licensee shall respond to any subpoena issued by the Board or its executive officer or the assistant executive officer in the absence of the executive officer within 30 days and in accordance with the provisions of the Accountancy Act and other applicable laws or regulations.

"…

- "(d) A licensee shall provide true and accurate information and responses to questions, subpoenas, interrogatories or other requests for information or documents and not take any action to obstruct any Board inquiry, investigation, hearing or proceeding."
 - 22. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 95.4, states:

"The failure of a licensee to comply with a citation containing an assessment of administrative fine, an order of correction or abatement or both an administrative fine and an order of correction or abatement after this citation is final and has been served in accordance with the

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provisions of Section 11505(c) of the Government Code shall constitute a ground for revocation or suspension of the license or permit."

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- 23. Standards of practice pertinent to this Accusation and the engagements at issue include, without limitation:
- A. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) are issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The ten interrelated GAAS (AU 150.02) and other Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS) are codified by "AU" number in the AICPA's Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards. They are applicable for audits of entities with periods ending before December 15, 2012. Auditing sections in the Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards were re-drafted according to established clarity drafting conventions. Clarified Statements on Auditing Standards are effective for periods ending on or after December 15, 2012, and differ from non-clarified standards through the addition of a "C" (i.e., AU-C). The relevant clarified SAS herein are: AU-C § 700 Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements.

COST RECOVERY

24. Section 5107, subdivision (a), of the Code states:

"The executive officer of the board may request the administrative law judge, as part of the proposed decision in a disciplinary proceeding, to direct any holder of a permit or certificate found to have committed a violation or violations of this chapter to pay to the board all reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case, including, but not limited to, attorney's fees. The board shall not recover costs incurred at the administrative hearing."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Practice of Public Accountancy Without Valid License)

25. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 5100, subdivision (g), in conjunction with Sections 5051 and 5050, subdivision (a), for the unlicensed practice of public accountancy. The circumstances are as follows:

A. On January 1, 2012, Respondent's license to practice public accountancy expired. Despite this, Respondent prepared and issued two audit reports on May 10, 2013, and August 20, 2014, and one compilation report on May 14, 2013, for his client, "RCA." Respondent's license to practice public accountancy is currently in a "delinquent" status.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Practice of Public Accountancy Under Unregistered Firm Name)

- 26. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 5100, subdivision (g), in conjunction with Section 5060, subdivision (b), in that he practiced public accountancy under a name for which he did not hold a valid permit to practice issued by the CBA. The circumstances are as follows:
- A. Respondent, using the accountancy firm name of "Blecker and Associates, CPAs," prepared and issued two audit reports on May 10, 2013, and August 20, 2014, and one compilation report on May 14, 2013, for his client, "RCA." Respondent, however, has never registered or obtained a valid permit for this accountancy firm with the CBA.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with Citation)

- 27. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Section 5100 and Section 5100, subdivision (g) of the Code, in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 95.4, for Respondent's failure to comply with a citation duly issued by the CBA. The circumstances are as follows:
- A. On or about January 18, 2013, the CBA issued a citation to Respondent for failing to respond to the CBA's letters inquiring about his compliance with peer review requirements, in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 52, subdivisions (a) and (d). The citation assessed a \$250 fine and contained an Order of Correction requiring Respondent to submit a peer review reporting form (Form PR-1) to the CBA and to pay the fine within 30 days.

 Respondent failed to contest the citation or pay the fine or submit the peer review reporting form

¹ Respondent's client is identified herein by the initials of its name only.

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SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 30. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 5100, subdivision (c), in that he committed repeated negligent acts within his 2013 and 2014 audit engagements for his client, "RCA", each resulting in a violation of applicable professional standards indicating a lack of competency in the practice of public accountancy. The circumstances are as follows:
- A. On May 10, 2013, and August 20, 2014, Respondent prepared and issued two audit reports for his client "RCA". The audit reports failed to comply with the following clarified Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS): AU-C Section 700 Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements. AU-C Section 700 requires that an auditor's report indicate, in separate paragraphs, management's responsibility and the auditor's responsibility with respect to the financial statements audited. The two audit reports prepared and issued by Respondent did comply with this requirement.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Comply with Professional Standards)

31. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 5100, subdivision (g), in conjunction with California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 58, in that he failed to comply with all applicable professional standards with respect to his 2013 and 2014 audit engagements for his client, "RCA", including clarified Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS), as more fully alleged in paragraph 30 above, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Issue Report Conforming to Professional Standards)

32. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 5100, subdivision (g), and Code section 5062, in that he issued two audit reports on May 10, 2013, and August 20, 2014, that failed to meet professional standards under the clarified Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS), to wit: AU-C Section 700, as more fully alleged in paragraph 30 above, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the CBA issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking, suspending, restricting, limiting or otherwise imposing discipline upon Certified Public Accountant Certificate Number 34525, issued to Richard Roy Blecker;
- 2. Ordering Richard Roy Blecker to pay the CBA the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 5107;
- 3. Ordering Richard Roy Blecker to pay the CBA an administrative penalty pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 5116; and
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 113/06

Executive Officer

California Board of Accountancy Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California
Complainant

SD2016700769